

VLR-5/13/69 NRHP-11/17/69

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM**

(Type all entries - complete applicable sections)

STATE: <b>Virginia</b>	
COUNTY: <b>Danville (in cit.)</b>	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE
	<b>11/17/69</b>

**1. NAME**

COMMON:  
**Danville Public Library (Confederate Memorial)**

AND/OR HISTORIC:  
**Sutherlin House - preferred**

**2. LOCATION**

STREET AND NUMBER:  
**975 Main Street**

CITY OR TOWN:  
**Danville**

STATE: **Virginia** CODE: **590** COUNTY: **(in cit.)** CODE: **590**

**3. CLASSIFICATION**

CATEGORY (Check One)	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC
District <input type="checkbox"/> Building <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Public <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Occupied <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Yes: <input type="checkbox"/>
Site <input type="checkbox"/> Structure <input type="checkbox"/>	Private <input type="checkbox"/>	In Process <input type="checkbox"/>	Restricted <input type="checkbox"/>
Object <input type="checkbox"/>	Both <input type="checkbox"/>	Being Considered <input type="checkbox"/>	Unrestricted <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
		Preservation work in progress <input type="checkbox"/>	No: <input type="checkbox"/>

PRESENT USE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

Agricultural <input type="checkbox"/>	Government <input type="checkbox"/>	Park <input type="checkbox"/>	Transportation <input type="checkbox"/>	Comments <input type="checkbox"/>
Commercial <input type="checkbox"/>	Industrial <input type="checkbox"/>	Private Residence <input type="checkbox"/>	Other, (Specify) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
Educational <input type="checkbox"/>	Military <input type="checkbox"/>	Religious <input type="checkbox"/>	<b>Public Library</b>	
Entertainment <input type="checkbox"/>	Museum <input type="checkbox"/>	Scientific <input type="checkbox"/>		

**4. OWNER OF PROPERTY**

OWNERS NAME:  
**City of Danville, c/o (David Flick) Liaison Officer**

STREET AND NUMBER:  
**975 Main Street**

CITY OR TOWN: **Danville** STATE: **Virginia** CODE: **590**

**5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION**

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC:  
**Clerk's Office of Corporation Court**

STREET AND NUMBER:  
**Municipal Building, Court Street**

CITY OR TOWN: **Danville** STATE: **Virginia** CODE: **590**

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: **3 acres**

**6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS**

TITLE OF SURVEY:  
**Historic American Buildings Survey Inventory**

DATE OF SURVEY: **1958** Federal ☒ State ☐ County ☐ Local ☐

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS:  
**Library of Congress**

STREET AND NUMBER:  
**Washington**

CITY OR TOWN: **Washington** STATE: **D. C.** CODE: **08**

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## 7. DESCRIPTION

CONDITION	(Check One)					
	Excellent <input type="checkbox"/>	Good <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Fair <input type="checkbox"/>	Deteriorated <input type="checkbox"/>	Ruins <input type="checkbox"/>	Unexposed <input type="checkbox"/>
INTEGRITY	(Check One)			(Check One)		
	Altered <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Unaltered <input type="checkbox"/>			Moved <input type="checkbox"/> Original Site <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (If known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The Sutherlin House is a two-story stuccoed structure built in the Italianate villa style. Typical of its type, three of its five bays extend beyond the plane of the facade in an off-center projection with the recessed portion of the facade fronted by a one-story wooden porch. The whole structure is surrounded by a heavy bracketed cornice and crowned by a very shallow hipped roof with a square cupola in the center which is ornamented with pilasters and a bracketed cornice. Except on the rear, all of the tall narrow windows have segmental arches with simple molded hoods. Two one-story wings on high basements have been added to the rear of the house for expanded library facilities. The architectural style of the house was carried through in these additions.

Unfortunately the interior of the house has been considerably altered to conform with its new function. The removal of the first floor hall walls has made that floor one open space, and the staircase has been relocated as well. Some of the very elaborate plasterwork cornices have survived along with several ceiling rosettes and the drawing room marble mantel-piece. The second floor rooms are generally intact although a partition between the north rooms has been removed, and the hall has been altered by the relocation of the staircase.

A number of the original furnishings remain in the house including the table on which President Davis is reputed to have signed his last official proclamation. Fortunately there exists accurate descriptions of the interiors and the furnishings as they were at the time of Davis' visit.

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# 8. SIGNIFICANCE

## PERIOD (Check One or More as Appropriate)

Pre-Columbian ☐ 16th Century ☐ 18th Century ☐ 20th Century ☐  
 15th Century ☐ 17th Century ☐ 19th Century ☒

## SPECIFIC DATE(S) (If Applicable and Known)

## AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

Aboriginal	Education	<input type="checkbox"/>	Political	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Urban Planning	<input type="checkbox"/>
Prehistoric	Engineering	<input type="checkbox"/>	Religion/Philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/>	Other (Specify)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Historic	Industry	<input type="checkbox"/>	Science	<input type="checkbox"/>	Architecture	
Agriculture	Invention	<input type="checkbox"/>	Sculpture	<input type="checkbox"/>	History	
Art	Landscape	<input type="checkbox"/>	Social/Humanitarian	<input type="checkbox"/>		
Commerce	Architecture	<input type="checkbox"/>	Theater	<input type="checkbox"/>		
Communications	Literature	<input type="checkbox"/>	Transportation	<input type="checkbox"/>		
Conservation	Military	<input type="checkbox"/>				
	Music	<input type="checkbox"/>				

## STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE (Include Personages, Dates, Events, Etc.)

The Sutherlin House was built for Major William T. Sutherlin in 1857-58 on a four acre plot on Danville's Main Street. Major Sutherlin was a member of the historic Virginia Convention of 1861, and at the outbreak of the Civil War he became Chief Quartermaster for Danville with the rank of major.

On April 2, 1865, when it became obvious that the Confederate forces could no longer defend Richmond, the Confederate government decided to leave the city and set up a temporary capital in Danville. President Jefferson Davis and his cabinet arrived in Danville on April 3, 1865, and it was decided that the President would be the guest of Major Sutherlin. While at the house, on April 4, 1865, President Davis signed his last official proclamation as President of the Confederate States of America. It is believed that President Davis received the news of General Lee's surrender at Appomattox Court House while having dinner at the Sutherlin house on April 10th. That evening he and his now fugitive government left Danville for Greensboro, North Carolina, on their "flight into oblivion."

In addition to the historic events which took place in Major Sutherlin's house, the building should be noted as one of the outstanding examples of the Italianate villa style in Virginia.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

# 9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Letter from David Flick, Assistant Librarian, Danville Public Library, to James W. Moody, Jr., October 23, 1968.

Strode, Hudson, The Life of Jefferson Davis, New York: 1953, 3 vols.

The Last Capitol of the Confederacy, Danville Chamber of Commerce.

# 10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING A RECTANGLE LOCATING THE PROPERTY			LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING THE CENTER POINT OF A PROPERTY OF LESS THAN ONE ACRE		
CORNER	LATITUDE	LONGITUDE			
	Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees	Minutes	Seconds
NW	° ' "	° ' "	36°	34'	52"
NE	° ' "	° ' "			
SE	° ' "	° ' "			
SW	° ' "	° ' "			

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE:	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE
STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE

# 11. FORM PREPARED BY

NAME AND TITLE:  
Staff, Virginia Historic Landmarks Commission, James W. Moody, Jr., Director

ORGANIZATION: Virginia Historic Landmarks Commission DATE: June 2, 1969

STREET AND NUMBER:  
Room 1116, Ninth Street State Office Building

CITY OR TOWN: Richmond STATE: Virginia CODE: 45

# 12. STATE LIAISON OFFICER CERTIFICATION

# NATIONAL REGISTER VERIFICATION

As the designated State Liaison Officer for the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89-665), I hereby nominate this property for inclusion in the National Register and certify that it has been evaluated according to the criteria and procedures set forth by the National Park Service. The recommended level of significance of this nomination is:

National ☐ State ☒ Local ☐

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Dr. Edward P. Alexander, Chairman  
 Title Virginia Historic Landmarks Comm.

Date 5/13/69

I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register.

\_\_\_\_\_  
 Chief, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation

Date \_\_\_\_\_

ATTEST:

\_\_\_\_\_  
 Keeper of The National Register

Date 11/17/69

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NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Continuation Sheet)

STATE Virginia	
COUNTY Danville (in cit.)	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE

(Number all entries)

6. Virginia Historic Landmarks Commission Report #108-6  
1968 State  
Virginia Historic Landmarks Commission  
Room 1116, Ninth Street State Office Building  
Richmond, Virginia 23219 Code: 760 45



DANVILLE

lat 36° 34' 52"  
long 79° 24' 00"

RIVER

DAN

BALLOU PARK

Schoolfield

Jackson

Almagro

Danville Technical Institute (VTI)

Danville Community College (VPC)

Pumpkin

Creek